Colwood Connection

Involving you in decisions about our vibrant seaside community.

May 2019

Enhancing services while planning for the future

Colwood has adopted an award-winning, proactive approach to ensure funding is in place to keep tax rates level over time. The *average* residential property will see an increase of about $56 on the municipal portion of their 2019 tax notice.

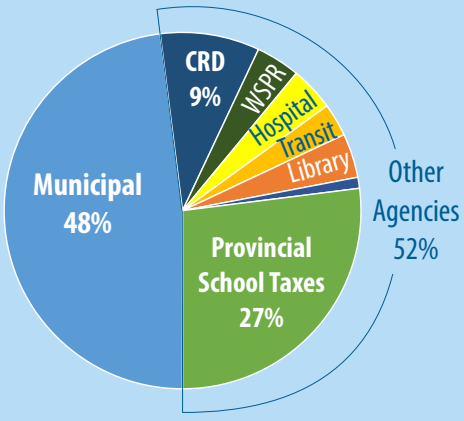
Colwood's financial health continues to improve, and the 2019 financial plan sets a course for the delivery of high quality and sustainable services based on four strategic priorities:

1. *Resource Management:* controlling costs through effective management.
2. *Economic Growth:* expanding the tax base with new commercial and employment opportunities.
3. *Placemaking:* creating places where people want to spend time and improving the routes to get there.
4. *Service Excellence:* a committment to customer-focused service and continous improvement.

52%

of the charges on your property tax bill are collected **FOR OTHER AGENCIES** over which the city has no direct control:

- Provincial School Taxes - 27%
- Capital Regional District - 9%
- West Shore Parks & Rec - 4%
- Hospital District - 4%
- BC Transit - 4%
- Library - 3%
- BC Assessment & MFA - 1%



2019-2023 Financial Plan highlights

Planning for infrastructure costs

The City's Sustainable Infrastructure Replacement Plan invests an additional $3.6M in capital reserves, which will allow the City to develop detailed capital plans for roads, parks, sewers, and storm systems.

New standards for parks, boulevards, roads & utilities

New standards for the maintenance of parks, boulevards, roads and utilities will be established based on the City's award-winning budgeting framework which demonstrates the real cost of providing services.

Enhancing public safety

As Colwood grows, so too does the need for investment in protective services. The 2019 financial plan invests an additional $2.7M for additional RCMP officers and staff.

Transportation planning

An updated Colwood Transportation Master Plan will integrate community needs, transportation studies, development plans, BC Transit enhancements and potential ferry options to maximize improvements to streets, sidewalks, trails, cycling routes, transit options, and overall traffic flow in Colwood.

What services does the City provide? Here are *just a few* examples in the 2019-2023 plan:

Fire Rescue & Policing
- 60 Fire Dept. Emergency Responses
- 25 Fire Investigations
- 6,500 hours of Fire Training
- 3,718 West Shore RCMP files for Colwood

Transportation
- 1 Transportation Master Plan
- 2 Traffic Calming Initiatives
- 23 Bus Stop Upgrades
- 42 Street Light Upgrades

Building & Development
- 450 Building Permits
- 60 Development & Subdivision Applications
- 1,250 hrs Engineering Review & Design

Public Works & Parks
- 1 Parks Master Plan
- 40 New Parks Signs
- 60 Parks Maintained & Enhanced
- 3 New Parks Coming to Royal Bay

Community Engagement
- 70 Public Meetings
- 400 Citizen Surveys
- 45 Community Events
- 10,000+ Event Attendees
- 45 News Releases

Assets & Infrastructure
- 1 Sustainable Infrastructure Replacement Plan
- 1 Stormwater Master Plan
- 2 phases of Coastline Erosion Studies
- 9 Bridges: Inspections & Repairs

Award winning financial planning

Two of Colwood's recent financial documents have been recognized with awards from the Government Financial Officers Association:

The Colwood 2018 Financial Plan earned a Distinguished Budget Presentation Award.

The Colwood Sustainable Infrastructure Replacement Plan earned an Award for Excellence in Government Finance.

The plans demonstrate excellence in financial practices by creating stable and predictable tax rates, avoiding added debt servicing costs, taking advantage of investment returns, and supporting community resilience to change.

Upcoming community events

Beach Food Fridays & Saturdays
Every Friday & Saturday starting May 31
Colwood.ca/BeachFood

Colwood Fire Hall Open House
Sunday, June 9, 2019

National Indigenous Peoples Day
Friday, June 21, 2019 at Royal Roads University

Canada Day at Fort Rodd Hill
Monday July 1, 2019

Eats & Beats at the Beach in Colwood
The biggest event of the summer! Five live bands, street food festival, craft beverage garden by Victoria Beer Society, beach street market and more. Colwood.ca/EatsnBeats
Saturday, July 20, 2019

Property tax due July 2, 2019

1. Claim your homeowner grant:
Claim your homeowner grant today at www.Colwood.ca/homeownergrant

2. Pay one of several ways:
- **Through your online banking**
- **In person at City Hall**
- **24 hour drop box at City Hall**
- **At your bank**
- **Mail it to 3300 Wishart Rd. V9C 1R1**
- **Through your mortgage lender**
- **Tax deferral program**

Don't wait ***in*** line...pay ***on***line!

Connect with Colwood

We want to make it easy for you to have a say in decisions about our vibrant waterfront community.

Visit colwood.ca to learn more, share ideas, and get involved.

Visit: City Hall at 3300 Wishart Road
Phone: 250-478-5999
Online: www.colwood.ca
Email: info@colwood.ca
Subscribe: colwood.ca/subscribe
Social: @CityofColwood